

December 1999

Dear Friends

As you can see from postmark, we ended up in Australia this year.

We managed to stay in Ottawa until June when Gord (with me close behind) accepted a contract in Hong Kong for a couple of months. At the beginning of August he went directly to Canberra again for a couple of months. We came home at Thanksgiving for 5 weeks and then took off for Australia for another five weeks. We will be back home on the 19<sup>th</sup> for Christmas with the family and expect to leave again on the 28<sup>th</sup> for Singapore!! What a year. As I keep telling Gord, I'm glad we are young and can handle it!!

We have had some wonderful times on our trips, especially here in Oz where we have been able to visit my younger brother in Brisbane on each visit. Canberra is a gorgeous city, not too big and easy to get around. Did try renting a car for a day, but Gord had trouble with his perception on the left hand side (they are on the opposite side of the road) so it was not a great success. We would be quite happy to stay here but it looks like it will be Singapore.

Hong Kong was an exciting and interesting city, but hot, humid and busy. Gord did not enjoy the work there so much and we were glad we didn't end up there for two years. We managed to get over the border into mainland China and visited some friends Gord had met over the internet. They took us out for a real Chinese meal. We were doing great, even eating roast pigeon, until I picked up the pigeon's head- beak, eyes and all. As the Chinese themselves say, they eat anything with four legs expect the table!! Hong Kong has a most beautiful setting and we enjoyed taking some tours on the weekends.

The family are all going well. David is still working as a Registered Nurse at the Ottawa General and enjoying the new demand for Nurses in Ontario. He certainly timed that career decision well. Kate is in her second year at UVIC Law School and enjoying it much more than her first year. Her biggest problem seems to be that she is sharing her basement apartment with mice and they are not welcome visitors. I did get out to visit her in February of this year for a few days and I now see the attraction of Victoria - it was lovely.

Mike is in his third year at Acadia and enjoying it as much as ever. He is now sharing an apartment with some other guys and enjoying his semi independence.

That's the year in synopsis!! Never a dull moment but lots of fun.

Hope your year was as good to you and you and yours are well and happy. Always look forward to hearing from old friends over the Christmas season and don't forget - if you find yourselves in Singapore in the next year .....

Gord & Jan

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